

Minutes of the Forum held on Tuesday 1st May 2018
Bunyan Meeting Church, Bedford
At 7.30pm

Welcome Revd Andrew Hollins (Chairman) welcomed all present and introduced Chris Damp Minister at Bunyan Meeting Church. Chris welcomed all and wished Churches Together in Bedfordshire well this evening.

Andrew thanked the people of Bunyan Meeting Church for hosting us and Stephanie for help in organising tonight's meeting.

Revd Andrew Hollins invited everyone to sing Thy hand, O God has guided. He read from John Chapter 14 and led the meeting in a prayer

Business Meeting Present – 40 people signed in.

1	Apologies	Mr Steve Dolby	Msgr Sean Healy
		Rev Chris Batten	Fr Kevin McGinnell
		Mr Jeff Bulled	Mrs Lynne Gound
		Rev Guy Scott	Rev Steve Toze
		Ven Paul Hughes	Rt Rev Richard Atkinson
		Gerald McGrogan	Mr Ian & Mrs Adrienne Gordon
		Rev Caroline Weaver	Michael Singleton
		Rt Rev Alan Smith	Ms Lucky Chidumba
		Rev Quentin Chandler	Gulie Butcher

2 Approval of Minutes of Forum held 9th May 2017

The Minutes had been circulated and copies were available at the meeting.

Approval proposed by Adam May, and seconded by Alan Dansey

These were agreed by the meeting as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters Arising - None

4 Report from Chairman:

Revd Andrew Hollins gave a verbal report to the meeting

Andrew reported that there was an increased number of attendees both last year and this at the Forum, we had a good presentation from Chris Curtis last year and are looking forward to hearing from Luke Lerner later. Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee has changed its name to Churches Together in Bedfordshire, following agreement to this at last year's Forum. Andrew thanked Sean Healy as he and Sean has been the only Trustees during the last year. Andrew also thanked Sean for agreeing to cover him during his forthcoming sabbatical. Andrew thanked Alan Dansey as both the webmaster and now the third Trustee of Churches Together in Bedfordshire. Andrew thanked Stephanie Field for all her work, especially in organising the Forum. Andrew thanked Lucky Chidumba for all her work and said Lucky has sent her apologies for tonight's Forum. Andrew also informed the meeting Peter Hammond, our former Treasurer died on 28th March and that there is a thanksgiving service on 3rd May 2.30pm at The Salvation Army in Bedford. Andrew recorded his thanks to Peter; a message of condolences has been sent to Peter's wife.

Andrew mentioned that Anita Nancollas, the Churches Together in Bedfordshire County Ecumenical Development Officer, resigned in January, Anita has been thanked with a gift and has responded with a Mass Card and said she will be praying for the Forum.

The CT Bedfordshire committee met last week. A small group is looking into the future of the CEDO role, but this post will not be filled immediately. This is not unusual within CT groups. Andrew asked the meeting to bear with the committee.

Andrew shared the CT Bedfordshire Prayer bookmarks for people to take away with them.

Andrew said Churches Together in Bedfordshire have an ongoing financial deficit as we still have ongoing pension debts. We also have unpaid invoices for Lakeview Village Hall at Wixams, which CT Bedfordshire are responsible for. We are looking at the invoices to establish what we owe, but it is in the region of £3000. Andrew said the independent Examiner has raised some questions on the 2016 accounts. We are working through this. Stephanie and Andrew have now obtained missing bank statements from HSBC. Not filing the accounts on time means that CT Bedfordshire is currently in breach with the Charity Commission.

Letters requesting Subscriptions for 2018 should have gone out in January, they are about to go out.

Andrew commented that on a more positive note we hope that CT in Bedfordshire is more proactively involved with Churches Together groups and LEPs. This is helped by submitting information to Stephanie to be shared via Alan on the website.

We sent Easter cards this year to LEPs and Churches Together in Bedfordshire groups.

We are having our committee meetings around the county; we have been to Harlington, Dunstable, Luton and Bedford recently. Andrew asked if anyone would like to host a future meeting and tell us a little bit about their group, then we would love to come so please contact Stephanie.

The 2019 Forum is on Thursday 9th May and our keynote speaker will be Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of England, Bishop Angeleos. He has two passions, Youth Work and persecuted Brothers and Sisters. CT Bedfordshire will be delighted to welcome him.

5 County Ecumenical Development Officer – No report

6 Finance

Copies of the 2017 Accounts were circulated prior to the meeting and available at the meeting.

The meeting delegated the agreement of the accounts to the July CT Bedfordshire meeting.

Subscription letters will be issued shortly with the same sliding scale as last year.

Honorary Treasurer Andrew thanked Lucky, she was proposed by Bob Halliday and seconded by Peter Gerrish for re-election – The meeting agreed

Honorary Independent Examiner - Alban McDonald. Stephanie will write to Alban to ask him to examine the 2017 accounts. The meeting agreed

7 Appointment of Chair - Rev Andrew Hollins has agreed to carry on this role; There were no other nominations. Nominated by Bob Halliday and seconded by David Fleming; all agreed.

Bob Halliday commented that given the circumstances and the reality that he cannot think of anyone more suited to do the job.

8 Any Other Business - David Fleming asked everyone to fill in a GDPR form either today or when we send the email.

9 **Date of the Annual Forum 2019** Thursday 9th May (Venue to be confirmed)

Keynote Speaker Luke Larner – Pioneer Minister

Anglican Lay Pioneer Minister in Luton gave a presentation to the meeting, beginning with the prayer of St Brendan the Navigator. Luke's presentation is attached.

Members of the meeting asked Luke the following questions, which he responded to.

What part does being a biker play in your ministry?

Would bikers still be interested if Luke was not a biker or would there be raised eyebrows and barrier?

How far does Luke's ministry cover?

How do you go about your ministry?

Do you have a base?

Revd Andrew Hollins thanked Luke for his talk.

Luke's email is luke@theroadsidemusings.com; Luke is happy for people to contact him.

Andrew thanked Rev Chris Damp and Bunyan Meeting for hosting and for help with the tea